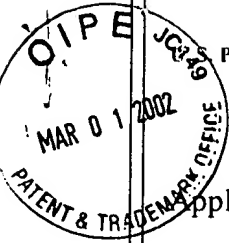


1772



PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #2094B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#113B
2-6-03
DS

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Application of: Nord et al.
Serial Number: 09/672,152
Filed: September 27, 2000
For: CUSHIONED RUBBER FLOOR MAT ARTICLE AND METHOD

Group Art Unit: 1772
Examiner: Unknown

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED
MAR 05 2002
TC 1700

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to a first Office Action on the merits, please amend the above application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 9, lines 5 – 23, **replace** with

-- With regard to the die mold, plate, belt, pad, or the like, it may be constructed of any material which can withstand vulcanization temperatures (i.e., between about 250°F and about 400°F) and pressures (i.e., between about 15 psi and 50 psi, generally). Thus, any metal may be utilized, such as steel, aluminum, titanium, and the like, certain plastics, such as Teflon®, for example, silicon molds, and the like. Also, as described in U.S. patent application serial no. 09/405,883, filed September[,] 2[8]4, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,303,068 hereby incorporated by reference, different belting materials may be used such as fiberglass with a thickness of 20 – 60 mils, preferably 30 – 40 mils. Preferably, the die mold or plate is made of steel or aluminum, is generally

B